



OpenLine

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Mesa Customers

March 2003

Mayor

Keno Hawker

**Vice Mayor
District 3**

Dennis Kavanaugh

**Councilmember
District 1**

Claudia Walters

**Councilmember
District 2**

Mike Whalen

**Councilmember
District 4**

Kyle Jones

**Councilmember
District 5**

Rex Griswold

**Councilmember
District 6**

Janie Thom

City Manager

Mike Hutchinson



Open Line is published by:

City of Mesa
Marketing and
Communications
20 E. Main St., Suite 700
Mesa, AZ 85211-1466

ph: 480.644.3770
tdd: 480.644.2778
fx: 480.644.5582

web: www.cityofmesa.org
email: openline@cityofmesa.org



Printed on
recycled paper

Sign up for Mesa's summer youth programs

It's March and registration for Mesa summer youth and arts camps begins next month. Watch for the Summer issue of *TimeOut*, the Community Services Department's class and program brochure, available on the City of Mesa Web site (www.cityofmesa.org) on March 28. Printed copies will be available April 4.

The information included in this issue of *Open Line* is a preview of what's coming, but should not be used as a registration form. Registration

for Mesa Arts Center programs begins April 4, and for Parks and Recreation programs on April 11. Programs take place in June and July and have specific dates. Many programs are offered in both East and West districts, divided by Gilbert Road.

Children with special needs are welcome in all programs. Call 644-3651 to make the necessary arrangements. City of Mesa programs do not qualify as daycare programs for tax purposes.

All numbers are in the 480 area code.

DAY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Kids in Action: (Grades 1-6) Half-day program with crafts, board games, movies, indoor games, guest speakers and special events. M-Th, 9:30a-noon or 1-3:30p. (*Note:* Participants may register for morning or afternoon sessions, but not both.) Two four-week sessions, \$35 per child per session.

Boredom Busters: (Grades 1-6) Afternoon program with swimming, crafts, board games, special events and more. M-Th, 1-5:30p. Two four-week sessions, \$50 per child per session.

Summer Adventure Camp: (Grades 1-6) Full-day program with arts, reading, theme parties, swimming and field trips. Children must provide their own lunch and two snacks per day. M-F, 7a-6p. One eight-week session, \$80 per child per week.

Kid Club: (Grades 1-6) Afternoon drop-in program with supervised, structured programs. M-Th, 1-5:30p. Two four-week sessions, \$25 per child per session.

Youth Adventure Series: (Grades 1-6) Friday field trips to fun places. Swimming and lunch are included. F, 9a-5p. \$22 per day (includes transportation).

Sports Plus: (Grades 4-6) Afternoon activities. M-Th, 1-5:30p. Two four-week sessions, \$50 per child per session.

G.R.E.A.T. Camp: (Grade 7-9) Half-day camp with field trips; self-esteem building through recreation and education. M-Th, one five-week session, \$25 per child.

Teens Interactive: (Grades 7-9) Afternoon camp, with sports, arts, field trips and more. M-Th afternoons. One eight-week session, \$80 per child.

Leadership Training

Development: (Ages 14-16) Teen volunteers assist at elementary day camps. Times and days vary per camp. \$25 per person.

Call 644-2352 (West) or 644-5300 (East) for more information on any of these programs.

Note: Grade levels specified apply to 2003/2004 school year.

ART CAMPS & CLASSES

Summer Arts Camp: (Grades 2-7 and 8-12) Full day visual and performing arts camps. M-Th for seven weeks.

Art Classes: All ages, visual and performing arts classes. M-F. Fees vary.

Call 644-3235 for more information.

Time Out continued on page 2

Time Out *continued from page 1*

MUSEUM CAMPS & CLASSES

Mesa Southwest Museum Summer

Camps: (Grades 1-6) A variety of morning and afternoon sessions are available in June and July for elementary school age children, covering topics such as dinosaurs, archaeology and sharks. For schedule and fee information, call 644-5083.

YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS

Summer Sports Clinics: (Grades 1-10) Various sports and locations. 644-2676 (East) or 644-2767 (West).

Tennis: (Grades 3-10) Learn the basics of tennis. Lessons in four-week sessions, starting June 2 and July 7. For info, call 644-2149.

AQUATICS

Pools located at junior high schools.

Swimming Lessons: (6 mo. and up) M-Th classes taught in four two-week sessions (AM

and PM). Lessons begin June 2. Saturday classes begin June 7. Call 644-2191 for details.

Competitive Swimming/Synchronized Swimming, Water Polo and Diving: (Varied ages) Children must be able to swim one lap non-stop. Daily one-hour practices. Program operates eight weeks beginning June 2. Call 644-2191 for more information.

Making Waves: Free swim lessons and activities for eligible students on free lunch program. Call 644-4950 for details.

Volunteer Guard Start: Teens 13-16 can gain lifeguarding skills and assist at pools. For information or a registration brochure, call 644-4951.

YOUTH ACTIVITY CLASSES

Tumbling and activity classes for children as young as 12 months. Gymnastics, dance, cheer and hip-hop, ages 3-15. Judo, karate, babysitting, sign language and other classes for ages 5-18. Call 644-4804 (East) or 644-3654 (West).

ADAPTIVE LEISURE

Camp Fiesta: (ages 6-21) Program for developmentally disabled individuals featuring arts, sports games and music therapy. M-Th for eight weeks.

Many other activities for physically/mentally challenged individuals are available. Call 644-3651 for more information.

RED MOUNTAIN MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER

Located at 7550 E. Adobe, the center is open 5:30a-10p, M-F; 9a-5p, Sat; and 12-5p, Sun.

Kids Zone: (Ages 6 -12) Drop-in program runs M-Th 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., with gym games, air hockey, arts & crafts, guest speakers and more. \$8.50 per day per child. Call 644-5198 for more information.

Call 644-4800 for more information about the climbing wall, drop-in children's activities and special interest classes for all ages.

Climb a-board a City committee

Mesa residents always are encouraged to participate in the governmental process. One of the best ways to do so is to serve on a City citizen advisory board or committee, where civic-minded citizens become involved in their government.

These groups make recommendations to the City Council on topics ranging from building safety to transportation. The City, in turn, benefits from the knowledge, experience and expertise of citizens.

Most boards and committees have five to 11 members serving three-year terms. Some boards and committees have specific requirements

for membership based on trades or professions. But generally, the minimum qualifications are an interest in serving, regular attendance and participation, and City residency. There is a particular need for representatives from Council Districts 4 and 6.

Prospective members must complete an application form, which is available on the City Web site—www.cityofmesa.org. Click on *City Government*, then select *Advisory Boards and Committees*.

If you have questions, visit the Web site or contact Eric Norenberg at 644-2569 or eric.norenberg@cityofmesa.org.

Save tax dollars this year with EITC, VITA

Do you work hard but not earn a high income? The Earned Income Tax Credit provides refunds of up to \$4,140 for working families. The average refund is \$1,400. There are lots of people who qualify, but they don't take advantage because they simply don't know about it. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EITC. But, you must file a tax return.

Also, you can get free tax help with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Volunteers prepare basic tax returns and related documents for those with low and fixed incomes. Assistance is provided at several Mesa locations, with most offering electronic filing. Call 644-2387 for EITC and VITA program details. For other tax-related questions, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Council discontinues certain sewer fee assessments

On Jan. 27, the Mesa City Council repealed portions of City Ordinance 8-4-10. This ordinance assessed fees from a property owner when City sewer lines were extended to their property—even if the person did not connect to the public sewer system, but continued using their septic tank.

If you are a current property owner who has a septic tank system and has been assessed City of Mesa sewer fees, call Customer Service at 644-2221 to determine if the sewer fees can be eliminated.

New facility replaces old station



The Mesa Fire Department dedicated the new Station 202 in February. Located at the corner of Stapley Drive and Eighth Avenue, the facility replaces the old Station 202 that was at 1105 E. Second Ave. (Left to Right: City Manager Mike Hutchinson, Vice Mayor Dennis Kavanaugh, District 1 Councilmember Claudia Walters, Mayor Keno Hawker, District 4 Councilmember Kyle Jones, District 2 Councilmember Mike Whalen and Interim Fire Chief Bob DeLeon.)

Neighborhood Notebook

High schoolers invited to enter YouthFest art contest

Entry forms are now available for Mesa Parks and Recreation Division's annual YouthFest visual arts competition for high school students.

Categories for the competition are: Visual Arts 2-D (including pencil, ink/scratch, painting in water, oil or acrylic, charcoal or oil pastels, and multimedia); Visual Arts 3-D (including jewelry, pottery and sculpture); and Photography.

YouthFest 2003 will be held 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Thursday, April 3 in the Centennial Center Palo Verde Room, 201 N. Center St. All entries will be on display for the public to view at this time.

Application forms are available at www.cityofmesa.org, Mesa Parks and Recreation offices (6945 E. Decatur St. or 125 N. Hobson) and through Mesa Public School High School art instructors.

Participants must be enrolled in grades 9-12. Each participant may submit up to three pieces of artwork. For more information, call Dana Hawkins at 644-3653.

Valley Bike Week shifts into sixth year

Valley Bike Week 2003, April 5-13, is wheeling into its sixth year. More than 1,000 people are expected to pedal their way to Valleywide activities including the Bike Swap Meet on April 5, Bike to Work Day on April 9 and Bike to BOB on April 13.

Valley residents can win prizes just for cycling during Bike Week. The grand prize, courtesy of Alaska Airlines, is two round-trip tickets to fly anywhere in the continental U.S. Entry forms are available online at www.valleymetro.org or by calling Valley Metro RideShare at (602) 262-RIDE (7433).

Child Crisis Center hosts annual festival

The Child Crisis Center-East Valley invites you to a free annual event. The Together Time Festival will be held 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at the East Valley Family Resource Center, 170 W. University Drive. Coinciding with Child Abuse Prevention Month, the festival features music, games and displays from agencies throughout the community. For more information, call 969-2308.

Expanded East Mesa Library re-opens

Everyone is invited to the grand re-opening of the expanded East Mesa Regional Library, 635 N. Power Road. The ceremony will be held at 9 a.m., Tuesday, April 15.

Improvements have tripled the size of the facility, from 17,000 to 52,000 sq. ft. Enhancements include new meeting, training and study rooms; expanded materials and service areas; drive-up book return; self-check-out machines; a glass wall depicting Red Mountain; and a public art display. The expansion was paid for by voter-

approved bonds and library impact fees.

Another improvement is an innovative, environmentally sound parking area that was donated by SRP. The 34-car structure collects solar energy while it provides shade to parked cars.

Mayor Keno Hawker is scheduled to preside at the ribbon cutting, along with Library Board Chairwoman Dana-Jean LaHaie and SRP President William P. Schrader. For more information about the event, call 644-2207.

Events and Exhibits

All area codes 480 unless otherwise indicated.

April 1, College Admissions Information Seminar, 7-8:30 p.m., Youth Activity Room, Main Library, 64 E. First St. Learn to choose the right college and navigate the admissions process. Registration required and begins March 24. Free. 644-2734.

April 3, Designing with Cacti and Succulents, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Saguaro Room, Main Library, 64 E. 1st St. Judy Mielke, landscape architect and author of *Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes*, explains how to incorporate the strong, sculptural forms of cacti and succulents into your landscape. Free. 644-3334.

April 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, Love's Labour's Lost, Mesa Amphitheater, 8 p.m., 251 N. Center St. Southwest Shakespeare Company performs the Bard's comedy classic. Adults \$19; seniors/students \$15; children \$10. 644-2560.

April 5, College Admissions Information Seminar, 2-3:30 p.m., Dobson Library, 2425 S. Dobson Road. Learn to choose the right college and navigate the admissions process. Registration required and begins March 24. Free. 644-3441.

April 6, Third Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration, 10 a.m., Unity March; 11 a.m., Blessing Ceremony; Festival lasts until 5 p.m.; Pioneer Park, 526 E. Main St. Entertainment, food/retail vendors and children's activities. 833-5875.

April 11, Intergenerational Military Ball, 7-10 p.m., Mesa Senior Center, 247 N. Macdonald. \$3 per person. 644-3654.

April 16, Landscape Watering by the Numbers, 6-8:30 p.m., Dobson Ranch Library, 2425 S. Dobson Road. Horticulturist Donna DiFrancesco and water management technician Jeff Lee will teach how to "water by the numbers" to make your desert landscape a success. Free, but registration required. 644-3306.

April 17, Mesa Historical Society Lecture, 7 p.m., Mesa Historical Museum, 2345 N. Horne. Mesa rancher Dwayne Dobson discusses raising livestock in Mesa. Open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Free. 835-7358.

April 26, April Pools Day, 1-4 p.m., Stapley Jr. High Pool, 3250 E. Hermosa Vista Dr. Activities include water safety education and swimming. Free. 644-4951.

Dispose of your hazardous materials

Bring your common household hazardous waste materials to one of our HHW collection events.

Acceptable items include paint, motor oil, batteries, pesticides, computer equipment, appliances (limit 2) and car tires (limit 5, no rims).

Residents need to bring their most recent trash bill.

The next two events are:

8 a.m.-noon, March 15 at the Center Street Storage Facility, 2412 N. Center (N. of McKellips).

8 a.m.-noon, May 17 at the East Mesa Service Center, 6935 E. Decatur (east of Power Rd., north of University).

For more information, call the Solid Waste Division at 644-2688 or visit www.cityofmesa.org for a complete listing of acceptable materials.

Telephone book recycling

Remember that telephone books can be recycled in your blue barrel.